

If you want a contraband which will stagger a man, ask him what service Congress is doing the country.

General Hancock is a President after all. He has accepted the presidency of the National rifle association.

There are very few prominent Democrats in Congress or out of it, who are willing to leave their address with any opposition paper.

General Garfield's cabinet is still perplexing the cabinet-makers; and what annoys them is that Garfield pays no attention to what they are doing.

They are having a good deal of trouble to make Governor Foster stick in Garfield's cabinet. One paper puts him and another takes him out, and so Charley is sailing between wind and water on the cabinet question.

News has increased in population only 10,000 since 1870, which is a less increase than any other State in the Union. At this rate it will not get the number of inhabitants now required for a single representative in Congress, until 1920. The saying is that her wealth is nearly all underground, which accounts for the little increase in population.

The Vicksburg Herald, Democratic, says: "Senator Bruce will retire from the United States Senate with the hearty good wishes of men of both races in his own State, and the kind words of the Southern press." The Southern press should have thought of this before, and not have withheld its compliments till Senator Bruce's term has expired. Mr. Bruce has made a good Senator but the Democratic press hadn't the manliness to say so.

Senatorial lightning has struck a farmer in Nebraska, and has struck him big. On the seventh ballot, Charles H. Van Wyck, a large farmer, was nominated for United States senator over A. S. Paddock, whose term expires next March. Mr. Van Wyck formerly lived in New York, and was a member of the Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh and Fortieth Congresses. He went to Nebraska less than a dozen years ago, engaged extensively in farming, became an anti-railroad man, and now walks into the Senate. During the war, and while a member of Congress, he served as a volunteer colonel in a New York regiment, and when the war closed was breveted a brigadier general.

Sara Bernhardt has closed her engagement and has gone to St. Louis. Her engagement in Chicago was in some respects a disappointment, probably not to the public but to the famous actress and her managers. The financial success was not what Abbey expected it would be. The first week of her acting netted \$20,569, but the second week's figures could not be obtained for the reason that the managers refused to furnish them to the press. They are estimated, however, to be from \$15,000 to \$16,000, which will make the net receipts about \$15,000 less than they were in New York or Boston for the corresponding time. The managers say they made a mistake in playing in Chicago two weeks, and probably they did at the prices charged and the character of the plays put upon the stage. The more popular plays should have been given even with three or four repetitions. The largest house of the season was on Saturday afternoon last, when the receipts amounted to \$21,585, and "Camille" the play. Twice before, when this popular play was given, the theatre was crowded nearly to its utmost capacity.

SOME PROPOSED LEGISLATION.
Senator Richardson has introduced a bill which provides that unjustifiable or inexcusable assaults, shall be punished on conviction, by imprisonment in the county jail not more than three months or by fine not exceeding one hundred dollars. This amends section 4398 of the Revised Statutes.

Assemblyman Keene, of Grant county, is the author of a bill allowing villages one-half square mile in area and containing a resident population of at least 50 persons, to become incorporated as villages; the present law fixes the area at one square mile.

The interest question has come up in the Assembly from three different sources. Assemblyman Blakeslee, of Sauk, is the father of a bill making the legal rate of interest seven per cent, but allowing any rate to be agreed upon by the parties. Assemblyman Sprague, of Green county, has a bill which makes the legal rate six per cent, and the contract rate eight. The present law fixes the legal rate at seven and the contract rate ten per cent. Mr. Juvet, of Vernon county, has a bill in the Assembly identical in its provisions with that of Mr. Sprague's.

Assemblyman Ware, of Fond du Lac, has introduced a bill which has some justice and common sense about it. It provides that the punishment for assault with intent to kill or rob, shall be imprisonment for not more than fifteen years nor less than five years. The wisdom of the provisions of this bill will be readily seen when it is known that the punishment that can be inflicted for these crimes, under the present law, is imprisonment for not more than five years nor less than one; while a person who steals property worth not more than \$25.00 can be punished as severely as the man who attempts highway robbery or lays his hands to murder a fellow-being. The bill introduced by Mr. Ware should

become a law that the grades of punishment may be more nearly perfect.

Assemblyman Pratt, of this county, is the author of a bill which provides that the deposits into the savings banks and savings societies in this State, shall be exempt from municipal taxation.

The wolf bounty question is again before the Legislature, and will doubtless create some discussion. The liberal bounties paid by the State for the scalp of a wolf, induced certain "enterprising" persons to go into the business of wolf raising. This was found out, and two years ago the old law which was so liberal in all its provisions, was repealed. As to the bills introduced in the Assembly, the Journal says: "The first bill introduced in the Assembly, at this session, was by Mr. Case, of Richland, for the payment of a bounty for the destruction of wolves. It will be remembered that the wolf scalp bounty system was abolished by the Legislature, two years ago in consequence of the abuses to which it had given rise. There is this winter, however, a decided effort being made to re-establish the old law, with some modifications, no less than three bills having been thus far introduced, with this object in view. Mr. Case's measure provides for wolf-killing only—\$5 per scalp, with privilege to set baits with poison; a bill introduced by Mr. Austin, of Monroe county, provides a like bounty for wolf-scalps; Mr. Kingston's bill establishes a bounty of \$5 upon each wolf-scalp, \$3 on wolf-cats and lynxes and \$2 on foxes."

From some cause or other, the oil-test law has not given satisfaction in some parts of the State, and it is now proposed to abolish the law entirely. An Assembly resolution was offered providing for an investigation into the operation of the law, but the Senate killed it. There is now a bill before the Assembly, introduced by Mr. Kidd, of Grant county, to repeal the law, and this will probably pass.

Assemblyman Menzies, of this county, has introduced a bill amending section 1,098, of the laws of 1878. The bill provides: "In assessing taxes on real estate that is encumbered by mortgage, the amount of such indebtedness shall be exempt from taxation as against the mortgagee or owner of such real estate; and in fixing a value on such real estate the assessor shall deduct the amount of such indebtedness from the estimated value of such real estate, and assess only the value of such real estate, less such indebtedness, and shall at the time of making the assessment enter in a column opposite the name of the owner of such real estate the amount of such indebtedness. The bill further provides that the owner of any mortgaged premises shall make out a certified statement showing the date of any mortgage, the volume in which it is recorded, and the place of residence of the owner of the mortgage. The assessor is required then to make a certified copy of such statement and send it to the assessor of the ward or town in which the holder or owner of such mortgage may reside, where it will be assessed at its full value."

A BOLD ROBBERY.

One of the Boldest Robberies on Record—Ten Thousand Dollars in Booty.

CHICAGO, Jan. 24.—A daring and successful safe robbery was committed yesterday, the scene of the job being a second-story located at the corner of Third and Second streets and Ashland avenue and occupied by the office of the Union Iron and Steel company, whose immense rolling mills, blast furnaces, and companion shops occupy a vast area of the surrounding country, and employ night onto a thousand men when the mills are in full operation. Less than a year ago the same safe, in the same office, was blown open and \$700 in clean cash abstracted. The job a year ago, though a good one, was but a small affair compared to that of last night, by which the robbers carried off with them ten thousand dollars in gold and silver.

Yesterday evening, shortly before 7 o'clock, the watchman, J. C. Brooks, entered the office by a door which faces the mills, though the house is situated on Ashland avenue. The watchman was engaged in reading a paper, when his attention was attracted by a noise at the door. He got up to investigate, and had just stepped out through the swinging door alongside the desks, when the main door was pushed open, and three masked men confronted him. Before he could cry out for help the biggest of the three grabbed him by the throat, while the others gagged and bound him. All three of the things were powerful and muscular fellows, and the gray-haired watchman was but a child in their hands. The robbers all had handkerchiefs drawn across their faces, the largest having a colored kerchief, with light spots on it. Having tied his hands and legs, they then blindfolded him, and placed one of their number over him with a revolver, warning him not to make a sound. To make the old man understand still further their disregard for his life, the cold muzzle of the revolver was allowed to touch his face every few moments, and its effect was marvellous.

In the meantime the other two drilled two holes in the safe near the knob, and inserting a charge, blew the door off. The composition was scattered all over the room, and the noise must have been quite loud. The inside doors were quickly pried, and yet the gang were in no hurry. Evidently they had confederates outside, for not once during the whole two hours they were there did they think it worth while to look out. Their plunder consisted of \$10,000 in five dollar gold pieces, \$150 in silver quarters and other coins, and about \$8,500 in greenbacks and national bank notes. They left the old man with a parting admonition to take his time about notifying the police. When they were gone, Brooks crawled to the door and succeeded by shouting, in attracting the attention of one of the workmen, who released him.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.

Terrible Accident on the Erie Railroad, Saturday Night.

A Broken Axle Throws the Entire Train from the Track.

The Postal Car Takes Fire, and Four Clerks are Roasted Alive.

Three Masked Men Enter the Union Steel Works Office, in Bridgeport.

Bind, Gag, and Blindfold the Watchman, and Blow the Safe.

Taking Therefrom Ten Thousand Dollars in Gold, Silver, and Greenbacks.

Mysterious Robbing of a Mail Bag Containing One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

The Work Yet to be Acted upon by the Forty-Sixth Congress.

A Small War with the Oyster Men on the Rappahannock.

FRIGHTFUL CATASTROPHE.

Roasted Alive in a Mail Car—Frightful Accident on the Erie Road.

ELMHURST, N. Y., January 23.—Erie train No. 12, from Buffalo, left Elmira last night at 11 o'clock for New York. The train consisted of 1 postal car, 1 express car, 2 baggage cars, and 9 passenger coaches, most of them Pullman sleepers. When five miles west of Oswego, near Tioga Center, one of the driving-wheel axles of the locomotive broke close up to the wheel, and the entire train, which was going at the rate of 35 miles an hour, was thrown from the track.

The accident occurred where there was no embankment. The engine kept its feet, the engineer applying the air brakes as soon as he felt the shock. The cars were stopped very quickly, but the forward ones were turned over and over two or three times, some going on one side of the track and some on the other.

The engineer and fireman escaped unhurt. The postal car contained four clerks. This car almost instantly took fire and burned like gunpowder. The oil lamps used probably exploded and added fuel to the fire. Every man in the car was roasted to a crisp. The remains of one, who weighed over two hundred pounds, were gathered up and put in a small box.

In the express car was a passenger, Henry C. Brewer, of Elmira, and efforts were made to relieve him. A hole was cut in a side door of the car so that he got his head out, but his legs were fastened by the piled-up mass of express matter. The train men tried to pull him out, but the flames drove them away. They saw his hair and whiskers burned off, and then he put his hand up to his eyes and fell back into the car. The men in the postal car must have perished very quickly, as not a sound came from the wreck except the crackling of the flames.

\$150,000.

Were the Contents of a Stolen Mail Bag.

CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—A mysterious robbery of the registered letter pouch of Wednesday from Rochester, over the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railway. The train, which was due here at 7:30 o'clock, did not get in until about 11. No wagon was there to receive the mail and the messenger accompanying it left it to make his report at the office. When he got back he found the wagon there and the mail being loaded. It reached the office about 1 o'clock in the morning, was unloaded, and was not opened till the next morning, when it was discovered that a slit of about eighteen inches had been made in the registered letter pouch and seventeen packages extracted. Three of them were money letters and the other fourteen packages of unknown contents, some of them consigned to jewelry houses here and elsewhere. The facts were at once communicated to the special agents of the department, who have since been busily engaged in an attempt to ferret out the facts. The messenger, the driver of the wagon, and a railroad employe are in custody and hidden away from the ken of reporters. The authorities are very reticent about the matter, but enough is known to warrant the statement that it is still an open question whether the robbery was committed on the way from Rochester, while in the car at the depot, on the way from the depot to the office—the wagon was an open one—or after its arrival at the office. The contents are variously estimated at from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

DO-NOTHINGISM.

A Respect in which the Forty-Sixth Congress Will Be Fumant.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Only thirty-four working days remain for the Forty-sixth Congress. Into this brief period must be crowded all the legislation that this Congress is to accomplish. Five of the days which remain are Fridays, on which private business alone will be considered in the House of Representatives, unless two-thirds of the members shall decide otherwise. In the House, too, the first and third Mondays of February will be consumed on motions to suspend the rules and pass bills. On the second Wednesday of February the Electoral votes must be counted. It will thus be seen that only twenty-six days remain to the House of Representatives for the routine business of public legislation.

Seven of the general appropriation

bills yet remain to be acted upon by that body. Only one of these, the post-office bill, has yet been reported to the House. The District of Columbia bill, which is expected, he reported early this week. Later in the week the legislative, executive and judicial bill, which is now preparing, will probably be reported to the House. It is thought that the sundry civil and the general deficiency bills may be completed and reported some time next week. The general deficiency bill this year will provide for a very large appropriation, probably about \$23,000,000. This unusually large appropriation will be due to two causes: First, at the last session the Democrats cut down appropriations as low as they dared in order to be able to point to their economy when they made "stump" speeches in the Presidential campaign. Second, there is a pension deficiency amounting to about \$18,000,000. Another item of the deficiency will be about \$100,000 for the war department. About \$300,000 will be required to meet deficiencies caused by inadequate appropriations for the expenses of United States courts. This amount will not include anything for United States Marshals, or special deputies, on whom account it should be remembered there is a still greater deficiency.

OYSTER PIRATES.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Jan. 22.—Intelligence has been received here of the beginning of the oyster war on the Rappahannock River. Yesterday a fleet of 15 alien dredge-boats entered the mouth of the Rappahannock and began dredging for oysters in open violation of the Virginia Oyster laws. The authorities at Middlesex at once sent for a cannon, which was brought to the river bank and manned. The fleet of dredges was well armed with muskets and pivot-guns used for shooting ducks, and proceeded with gathering of the oysters unmindful of the warnings from shore. The cannon then opened on them, and the first round was returned by a volley from the fleet, delivered amid cheers from the oyster pirates. The cannon, a Whitworth, which formerly belonged to the Richmond howitzers, fired a second shot with better effect than the first and struck one of the dredges in her rigging. The oysterman who was here today giving an account of the fight said, to use his enthusiastic, nautical language: "The whole fleet then made a straight short-tail for the mouth of the river, their speed being accelerated by shots sent after them."

SOTHERN'S "DUNDREARY."

CINCINNATI, Jan. 23.—It is stated here that it was an incident which occurred to Southern in Cincinnati that shaped his career of success as Lord Dundreary. He was playing in Wood's theatre, where now the Gazette building stands, about the year 1854, when in making a leap from a tower in the play, "The Romance of a Poor Young Man," in which he was the star, he fell, breaking an arm. This incident put an end to his starring career in that play. After he had recovered sufficiently to travel he returned to New York and sought an engagement there. After temporary connection with various theatres there he became a member of Laura Keane's company in her theatre now the Oxyptine. She has just purchased of Mrs. Silsbee, wife of Joseph Silsbee, the Yankee comedian, a play called "Our American Cousin," which had been written by Tom Taylor for Silsbee, but never produced. In the cast of the play in which Joe Jefferson was given the then principal part, Asa Trenchard, Southern was given the part of Lord Dundreary. How he at first rejected the part, then was persuaded by Jefferson to play it, adopted the style which afterward became so famous, and ending that it took with the actors, amplified it, and made it the success of his life, are facts well known in his career.

THE BUSINESS MEN.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—The leading business men of New York are strongly advocating the management of telegraph lines by the government. Those who have studied the problem most closely see no remedy against the exactions of this present monopoly, except the adoption of just such a system as is used in Great Britain, and they note with pleasure that the idea is being agitated in all parts of the country, particularly in the West.

CHICAGO GOSSIP.

From our Regular Correspondent.
CHICAGO, Jan. 24.—The average vaccinations at the health office are now 270 daily, mostly children, and as small-pox cases are not diminishing, but rather increasing of late, many more will avail themselves of the privilege so kindly granted by the board of health.

Theodore Tilton delivered his lecture, "The World's To-morrow," in Central Music hall, on Thursday evening last; he was frequently applauded, and once had to stop for sometime until the applause subsided. He looks tired and careworn, but he is the old Theodore Tilton still, with his keen scrutiny, side glances and bold front.

Sickness amongst children has prevailed to a great extent during the past two weeks. The physicians call it "bad cold," but parents are not satisfied with this, as many deaths have occurred, and the sickness terminates fatally about the fourth day. It is not any of those diseases to which Chicago is so liable, but a new one, and sewer gas in the house is said to be the prevailing cause.

Over 300 Canadian mechanics arrived in Chicago last Friday. They will stay here permanently, as the present year will witness great demand for all kinds of tradesmen. Many more will come, next spring, they say. Good carpenters are rather scarce, and in demand even now.

One or two of our justices of the peace refuse to issue warrants according to law, for the arrest of saloon keepers who are constantly violating the Sabbath day. Consequently the christian temperance workers in our midst, will ask the circuit court to attend to it, and bring these law breakers to terms. The christian people are in earnest and will use every means towards prosecution, and do away with the great evil which is a curse to our city.

and which is doing more than all else to make it a center of Sodom of old.

Lake Michigan has been frozen so, that those wishing to do so, could walk to the city, two and one-half miles from the city. Of course this is of rare occurrence, and only happens once in a number of years; the ice extends at present over seven miles from shore.

Marriage licences issued last week, numbered 130, and divorces 15.

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BURNETT'S FLAVORING EXTRACTS are used and endorsed by the best Hotels, Confectioners and Grocers throughout the country. They are perfectly pure.

Robert G. Ingersoll in Tweed's Old Quarters.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.
Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, the distinguished Republican orator and lawyer, has purchased the mansion and grounds occupied by the American Club at Greenwich, Conn., during the Tweed regime, and subsequently known as the Morton House. The transaction has been kept very private, and the price paid for the property is at present unknown. It is said that Colonel Ingersoll contemplates turning the property into a magnificent residence or country seat, where he and his family will reside during the summer season.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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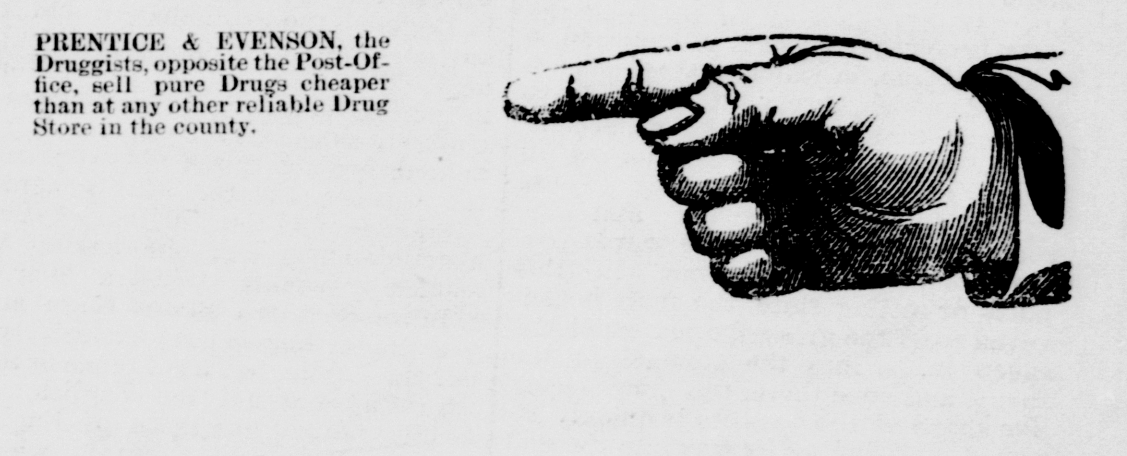
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